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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20 EUR-25 SAB-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01

DRC-01 ACDA-19 /174 W
---------- 034686
R 011149Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1355
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0598

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJ: PROSPECTS FOR FORMATION OF NEW ISRAELI GOVT

REF: TEL AVIV 457

1. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY BREAKTHROUGH IN COALITION NEGOTIATIONS THIS WEEK, IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT NEW GOVT WILL BE FORMED IN NEXT FEW WEEKS. DESPITE FORMIDABLE OBSTACLES IN RACHING AGREEMENT. NOW THAT PRESIDENT KATZIR HAS FORMALLY ENTRUSTED MRS MEIR WITH TASK OF FORMING NEW COALITION, SAPIR HAS INTENSIFIED CONSULTATION PROCESS TO RESOLVE CURRENT DEADLOCK ARISING FROM NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY'S (NRP) DEMANDS FOR NEW LEGITLATION ON ISSUE OF WHO IS A JEW. SAPIR TOLD LABOR PARTY CENTRAL COPVITTEE JANUARY 31 THAT NARROW COALITION, WITHOUT NRP, WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION,
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AND THAT FURTHER EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO RECONSTITUTE OUTGOING

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COALITION.

2. WE WERE TOLD JAN 31 BY HAIM ZADOK, WHOM SAPIR
DESCRIBED TO ME EARLIER THIS WEEK AS "HIS MAN" IN NEGOTIATIONS
WITH THE NRP, THAT LIKELIHOOD OF FINDINVCA VIABLE COMPROMISE
BETWEEN LABOR ALIGNMENT AND NRP WAS QUITE GOOD. HE EMPAHSIZED
THAT NRP PARTICIPATION IN NEXT CABINET WAS IMPORTANT NOT ONLY
TO NRP ITSELF, WHICH WANTS TO SAFEGUARD ITS MINISTRIES AND
PATRONAGEN, BUT ALSO TO LABOR ALIGNMENT WHICH WANTS TO AVOID
DANGER OF NRP LINKUP WITH OPPOSITION LIKUD.

3. ZADOK ALSO BELIEVED THAT INDEPDENT LIBERALS WERE LIKELY
TO AGREE TO RE-ENGER COALITION BUT THAT SHULAMIT ALONI'S
CITIZENS' RIGHTS PARTY PROBABLY WOULD STAY IN OPPOSITION. AS
HE PUT IT, ILP LEADER MOSHE KOL WOULD HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN
GOING INTO COALITION WITH MRS ALONI OR STAHING OUTSIDE IT
WITH HER, AND THAT IN CRUNCH HE WOULD OPT FOR FORMER, DUE AT
LEAST IN PART TO THE LURE OF RETAINING HS CABINET SEAT.

4. LABOR ALIGNMENT IN ANY CASE SEEMS DETERMINED NOT TO ALLOW
NRP TO HAVE ITS WAY ON WHO IS A JEW ISSUE IN PART BECAUSE IT
COULD CAUSE RIFT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND AMERICAN JEWRY. MRS MEIR
TOLD JEWISH AGENCY BOARD OF GOVERNORS JAN 30 THAT SHE WOULD
NOT AGREE TO NRP DEMAND TO CHANGE LAW OF RETURN.

5. OUTLINE OF POSSIBLE COMPROMISE WHICH WOULD ALLOW RE-FORMATION
OT OUTGOING COALITION HAS STILL NOT EMZKGED. BUT IISIWORTHWHILE
NOTING THAT BACKGROUND TO CURRENT MANEVUVERING IS BORADLY HELD
ASSUMPTION THAT NEW ELECTIONS ARE NEITHER NECESSARY NOR
DESIRABLE. LABOR LEADERSHIP AND MOST COMMENTATORS DOUBT THAT
LABOR ALIGNMENT WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY
IMPROVE ITS POSITION BY GOING TO ELECTORATE AGAIN AT THIS TIME.

6. OUR OWN READING OF SITUATION IS THAT INTERESTS OF LABOR
ALIGNMENT, NRP AND ILP TO FORM NEXT GOVT SHOULD
BE SUFFICIENTLY STRONG TO ENABLE THEM TO FIND WAY OUT
OF CURRENT IMPASSE.
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